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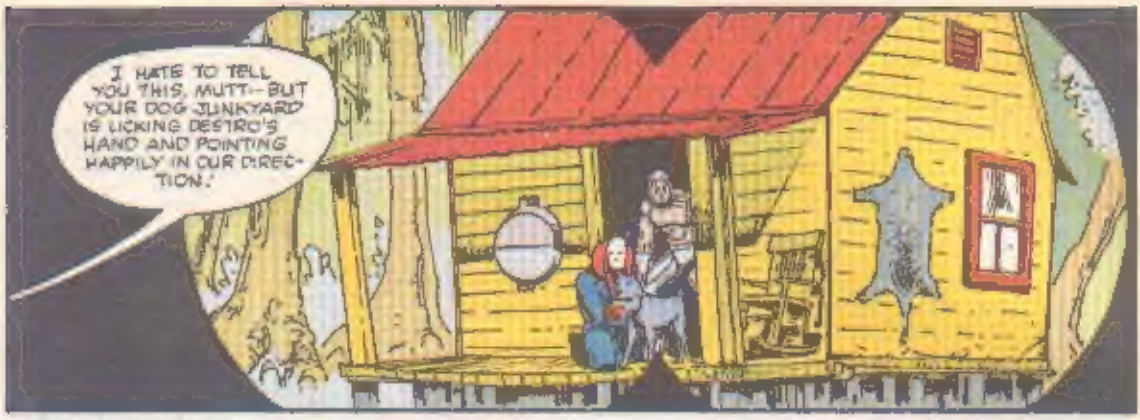

I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, MUTT-- BUT YOUR DOG JUNKYARD IS LICKING DESTRO'S HAND AND POINTING HAPPILY IN OUR DIRECTION!

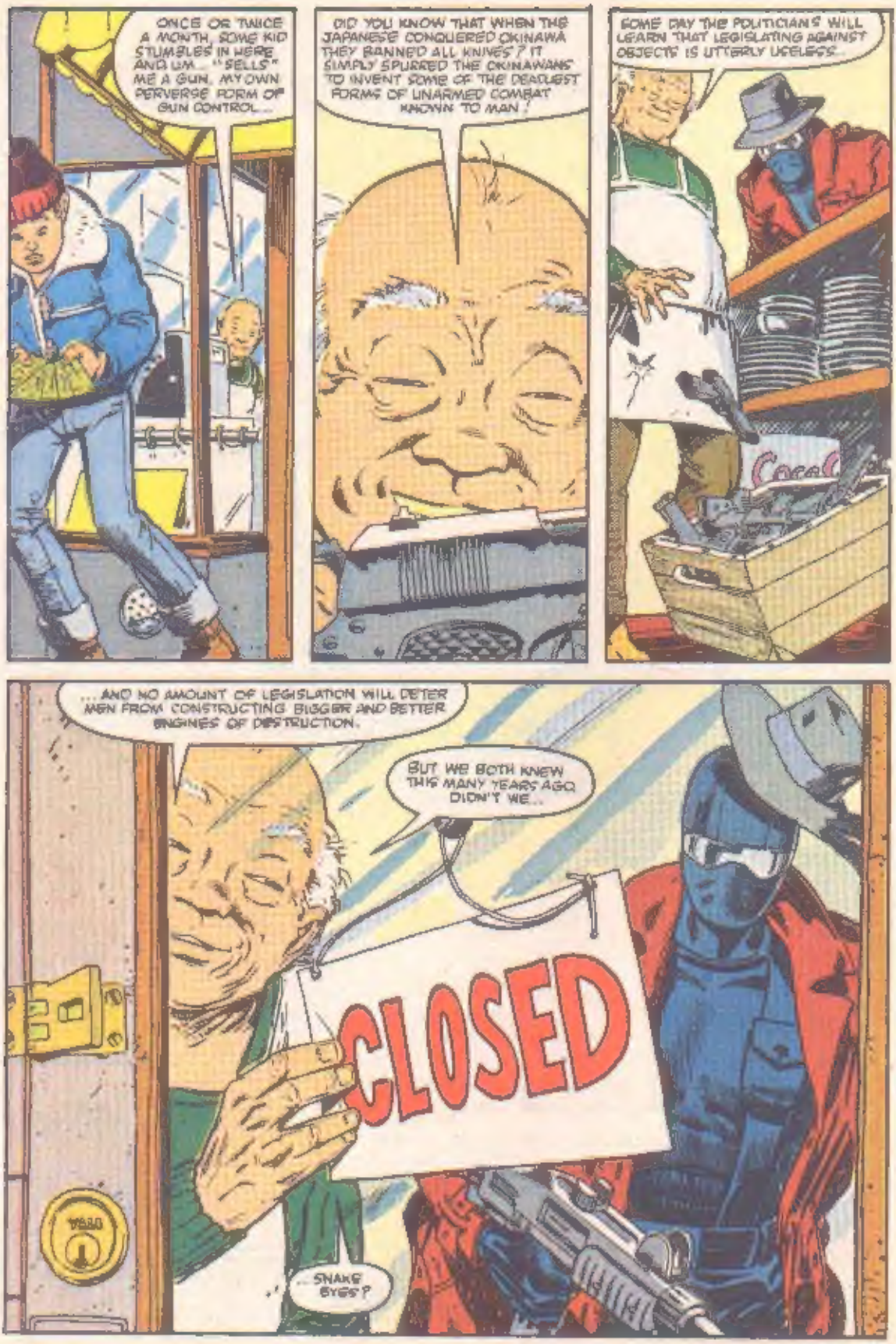
I RAISED HIM FROM A PUPPY AND THIS IS THE WAY HE PAYS ME BACK? I TELL YOU, TORPEDO-- LIFE AIN'T FAIR!
DON'T SELL HIM SHORT JUST YET. JUNKYARD MIGHT BE SMARTER THAN YOU THINK...
MAYBE WE SHOULD COLLECT THOSE COBRA PRISONERS WE LEFT TIED TO THAT GIANT MAGNOLIA AND SCOOT?

WE CAN PICK UP WILD WEASEL AND THE FIREFLY ANYTIME. RIGHT NOW, WE SHOULD GET AN ACCURATE ACCOUNTING OF WHO'S IN THAT SHACK.
YOU CAN PUT THAT INGRATE JUNKYARD AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST...

GETTING RESTLESS, BARONESS?
THE G.I. JOE TEAM IS OUT THERE, COBRA COMMANDER...
...I CAN ALMOST SMELL THEM!

MEANWHILE, IN SPANISH HARLEM...
CHECKS CASHED
COMIDAS CHINAS
3 STAR
YES... CAN I HELP YOU?
YEAH! YOU CAN EMPTY YOUR CASH REGISTER AND MAKE IT FAST! OR... OR... YOU CAN M-MAKE MY DAY!
OH, MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS ME! IS THIS A ROBBERY? AM I BEING THREATENED WITH WANTON VIC NCE BY A FERAL YOUTH?
YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE, OLD MAN...

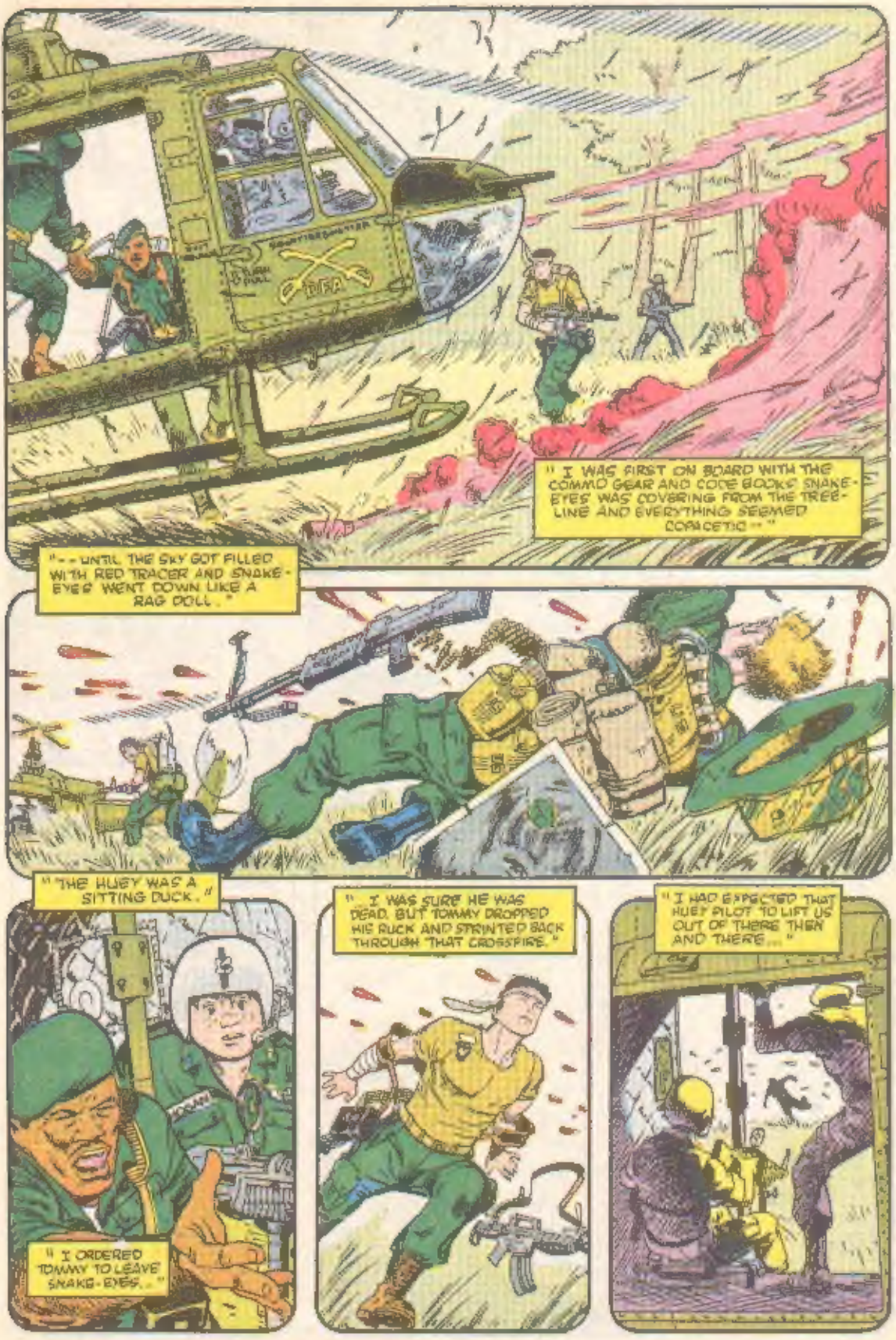
NO, IT IS YOU WHO ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE. ARE YOU AWARE THAT A COLT M1911A1 .45 CAL PISTOL IS COMPLETELY INCAPABLE OF OPERATION WHILE THE SAFETY CATCH IS ENGAGED?
YEAH? WELL NOW IT'S OFF SO--
CLICK!
SO! WITH THE SAFETY OFF, I CAN JACK THE SLIDE BACK LIKE SO, EJECTING THE ROUND IN THE CHAMBER AND PREVENTING THE NEXT ROUND FROM BEING STRIPPED OFF THE MAGAZINE--
HEY!
--A SIMPLE PRESSURE FROM MY THUMB ON THE MAGAZINE LATCH EJECTS THE FULL CLIP LEAVING THE PISTOL EMPTY OF AMMUNITION AND LOCKED IN THE OPEN POSITION.
I HAPPEN TO LIKE EMPTY PISTOLS. I'LL BUY IT FROM YOU FOR FIFTY DOLLARS. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
UHH...
TAKE IT. IT'S A MUCH BETTER PRICE THAN THE MAN WITH THE UZI BEHIND HIS PAPER WOULD GIVE YOU!


ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH, SOME KID STUMBLES IN HERE AND UM... "SELLS" ME A GUN. MY OWN PERVERSE FORM OF GUN CONTROL...
DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN THE JAPANESE CONQUERED OKINAWA THEY BANNED ALL KNIVES? IT SIMPLY SPURRED THE OKINAWANS TO INVENT SOME OF THE DEADLIEST FORMS OF UNARMED COMBAT KNOWN TO MAN!
SOME DAY THE POLITICIANS WILL LEARN THAT LEGISLATING AGAINST OBJECTS IS UTTERLY USELESS...
... AND NO AMOUNT OF LEGISLATION WILL DETER MEN FROM CONSTRUCTING BIGGER AND BETTER ENGINES OF DESTRUCTION.
BUT WE BOTH KNEW THIS MANY YEARS AGO, DIDN'T WE...
CLOSED
...SNAKE EYES?

MEANWHILE, AT THE PIT..
ANOTHER DEAD-END, SCARLETT. ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER, THAT MARK ON BOTH SNAKE-EYES' AND STORM SHADOW'S ARMS IS A HEX-AGRAM FROM THE I-CHING *. BUT THAT COULD MEAN ANYTHING, UNLESS--
* ANCIENT CHINESE BOOK OF WISDOM.
--UNLESS YOU KNEW HOW THAT HEXAGRAM LINKED THEM TOGETHER.
I'VE SEEN THAT MARK ON AN ARM BEFORE, MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO.. AND SNAKE-EYES WAS THERE.
TEN YEARS AGO.. SOUTH-EAST ASIA?
* LONG-RANGE RECON PATROL.
YOU WERE A LRRP* AT THE TIME.
RIGHT. SIX OF US WALKED INTO THAT STINKING VALLEY AND THREE OF US WALKED OUT. WE HAD STUMBLED ON A LARGE FORCE OF REGULARS FROM THE NORTH AND THEY SWATTED US GOOD. CHARLES' HAD CONTROL OF THE HIGH GROUND..
".. SO WE DECIDED TO SNEAK OUT THROUGH THE BOTTOM-LAND. I TOOK THE POINT WITH MY SUPPRESSED MIKE-ONE-SIX —
"--TOMMY TOOK THE CENTER. HE WAS A JAPANESE-AMERICAN KID OUT OF FRESNO. UNPRONOUNCEABLE LAST NAME. EVERYONE KNEW HIM AS TOMMY.."
".. SNAKE-EYES BROUGHT UP THE TAIL WITH HIS M-60. EVEN BACK THEN, HE WAS A MYSTERY--"

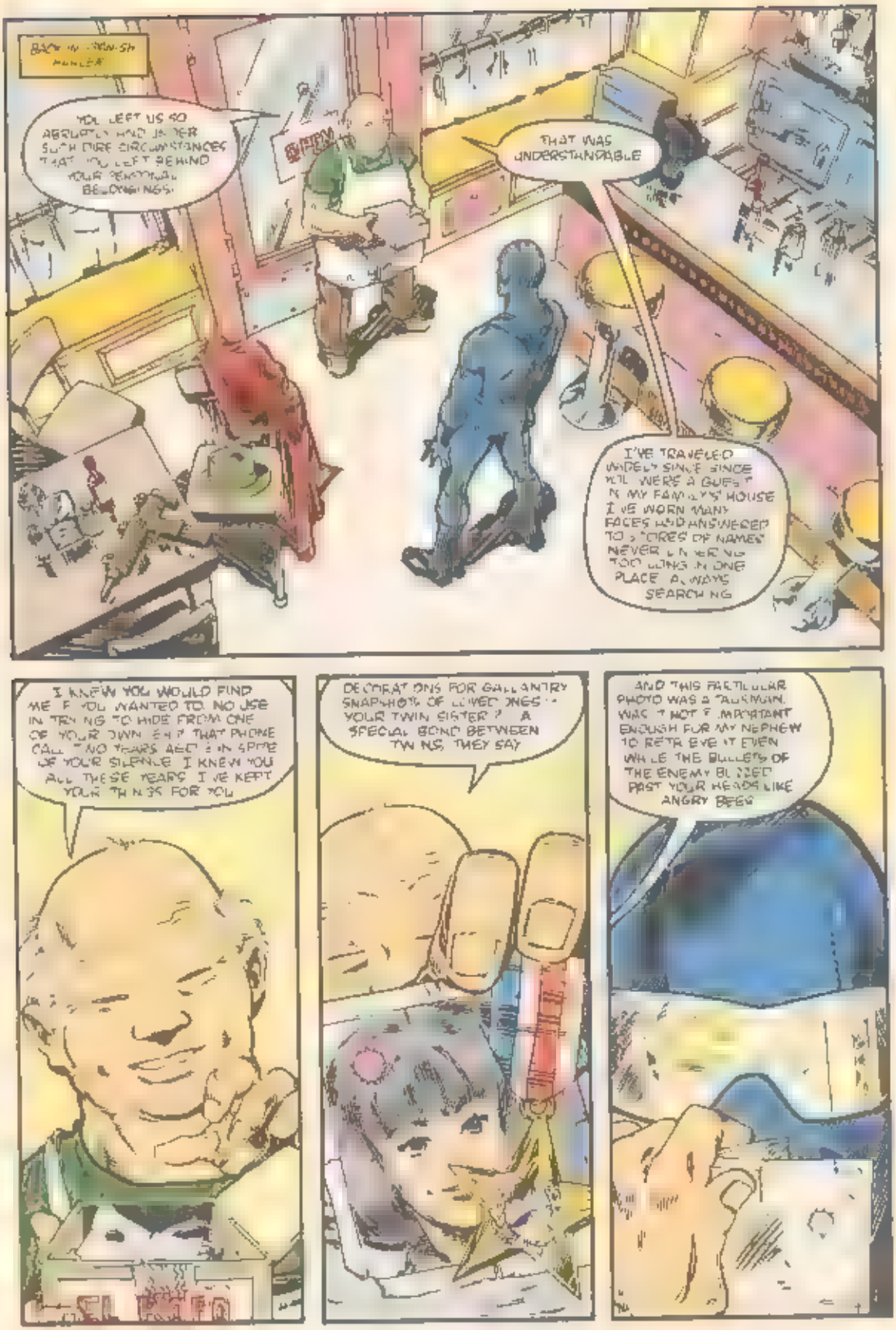
"SUDDENLY SNAKE-EYES GIVES US THE 'TAKE COVER' SIGN. SOMETHING BEHIND US..."
"HE WAS ALL ALONE. HIM AND HIS BRAND NEW A-K-47.. BUT WE KNEW HIS BUDDIES COULDN'T BE TOO FAR BEHIND. HE WAS A POINT MAN WHO WANDERED TOO FAR AHEAD..."
"I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE HIM OUT WHEN TOMMY STOPPED ME."
"HE STRUNG UP THAT WEIRD BOW HE ALWAYS CARRIED WITH HIM AND LET LOOSE A STEEL-TIPPED ARROW--"
"--THAT WENT CLEAN THROUGH THAT POOR SWINE'S LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER."
"TOMMY REMINDED ME THAT ALTHOUGH A SUPPRESSOR STIFLES THE DISCHARGE REPORT OF A RIFLE, IT DOES NOTHING TO SILENCE THE SONIC BOOM OF THE BULLET..."

"WE LOW-CRAWLED THROUGH THE RIFT TO GET CLEAR OF THAT VALLEY AND DUG IN BY THE TREE-LINE TO WAIT FOR OUR PICK-UP."
"TOMMY WAS TALKING UP A STORM TO SNAKE-EYES AS USUAL. THEY'D BEEN THROUGH A WHOLE TOUR TOGETHER AND THEY WERE BEAUCOUP TIGHT. I'D BEEN WITH THEM SIX MONTHS AND I WAS AN OUTSIDER!"
"TOMMY WAS TALKING ABOUT HIS UNCLE'S BUSINESS IN JAPAN. THE 'FAMILY BUSINESS.' TOMMY WAS GOING TO JOIN THE FIRM AFTER THE WAR AND HE WAS HINTING HEAVILY THAT THERE WAS ROOM IN THE BUSINESS FOR HIS OLD PAL..."
"...SNAKE-EYES HARDLY LISTENED TO HIM. HE WAS ALWAYS STARING AT THIS BATTERED PICTURE OF HIS TWIN SISTER."
"IT WAS HIS GOOD-LUCK CHARM. HE REALLY BELIEVED THAT NOTHING COULD HAPPEN TO HIM AS LONG AS HE KEPT THAT PHOTO SAFE..."
"THE PICK-UP HUEY CAME IN AT HIGH NOON AND WE MARKED AN LZ* WITH RED SMOKE..."
*LANDING ZONE.

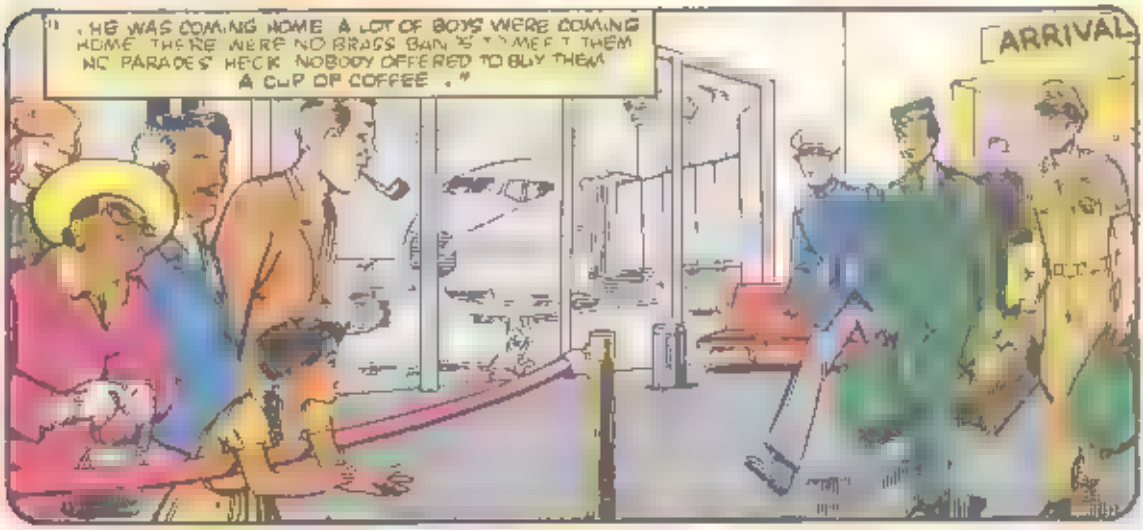

" I WAS FIRST ON BOARD WITH THE COMMO GEAR AND CODE BOOKS! SNAKE-EYES WAS COVERING FROM THE TREE-LINE AND EVERYTHING SEEMED COMPLETELY "
"--UNTIL THE SKY GOT FILLED WITH RED TRACER AND SNAKE-EYES WENT DOWN LIKE A RAG DOLL."
"THE HUEY WAS A SITTING DUCK."
" I ORDERED TOMMY TO LEAVE SNAKE-EYES."
" I WAS SURE HE WAS DEAD. BUT TOMMY DROPPED HIS RUCK AND SPRINTED BACK THROUGH THAT CROSSFIRE."
" I HAD EXPECTED THAT HUEY PILOT TO LIFT US OUT OF THERE THEN AND THERE..."

"... LUCKY FOR TOMMY AND SNAKE-EYES, I WAS WRONG."
"THE DOOR-GUNNER AND THE PILOT STARTED LAYING DOWN COVER FIRE WHILE TOMMY HEAVED SNAKE-EYES ON HIS BACK AND STARTED DODGING MACHINE-GUN BULLETS LIKE THEY WERE SLOW PIGEONS..."
"THERE MUST HAVE BEEN TWO OR THREE REINFORCED WEAPONS PLATOONS IN THE TREE-LINE AND THEY ALL HAD THEIR SIGHTS ZEROED ON TOMMY..."
"BUT TOMMY DIDN'T EVEN GET NICKED LIKE HE REALLY COULD DODGE BULLETS..."
"I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT I SAW IT."
"LATER, WHEN WE WERE SAFE IN THE AIR, TOMMY WAS BANDAGING SNAKE-EYES AND TYING THE GAUZE IN PLACE WITH HIS WRIST BANDS... THAT'S WHEN I SAW THE TATTOO--"
I JUST CALLED THE RECORDS DIVISION AT LEONARD WOOD. TOMMY'S UNPRONOUNCEABLE NAME? IT TRANSLATES DIRECTLY INTO ENGLISH AS "STORM SHADOW."

THEY'RE COMING OUT FOR A G I JOE HUNT I MOVE THAT WE ADJOURN THIS MEETING PICK UP OUR PRISONERS AND MAKE FOR HIGH GROUND!
GRRRRR! THAT JUNKYARD IS LEADING THEM RIGHT TO US I OUGHTTA TAKE A ROLLED UP NEWSPAPER TO HIS NOSE
JRK
THIS HAD BETTER PROVE FRUITFUL BARONESS YOU KNOW HOW I DISLIKE SOILING MY BOOTS
TRUST ME, COBRA COMMANDER THE DOG IS ON TO SOMETHING
THIS MUST BE THE TREE MUTT THE FOXES ARE STILL HERE
BUT FIREFLY AND WILD WEASEL HAVE ESCAPED!


BACK IN FRENCH HARLEM
YOU LEFT US SO ABRUPTLY AND IN SUCH DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT YOU LEFT BEHIND YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
SMASH
THAT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE
I'VE TRAVELED WIDELY SINCE SINCE YOU WERE A GUEST IN MY FAMILY'S HOUSE I'VE WORN MANY FACES HAD MANY NAMES TO STORES OF NAMES NEVER LINGERING TOO LONG IN ONE PLACE ALWAYS SEARCHING
I KNEW YOU WOULD FIND ME IF YOU WANTED TO. NO USE IN TRYING TO HIDE FROM ONE OF YOUR OWN, EH? THAT PHONE CALL TWO YEARS AGO? IN SPITE OF YOUR SILENCE I KNEW YOU ALL THESE YEARS I'VE KEPT YOUR THINGS FOR YOU.
DECORATIONS FOR GALLANTRY SNAPSHOTS OF LOVED ONES - YOUR TWIN SISTER? A SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN TWINS, THEY SAY
AND THIS PARTICULAR PHOTO WAS A TALISMAN. WAS IT NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR MY NEPHEW TO RETRIEVE IT EVEN WHILE THE BULLETS OF THE ENEMY BURNED PAST YOUR HEADS LIKE ANGRY BEES

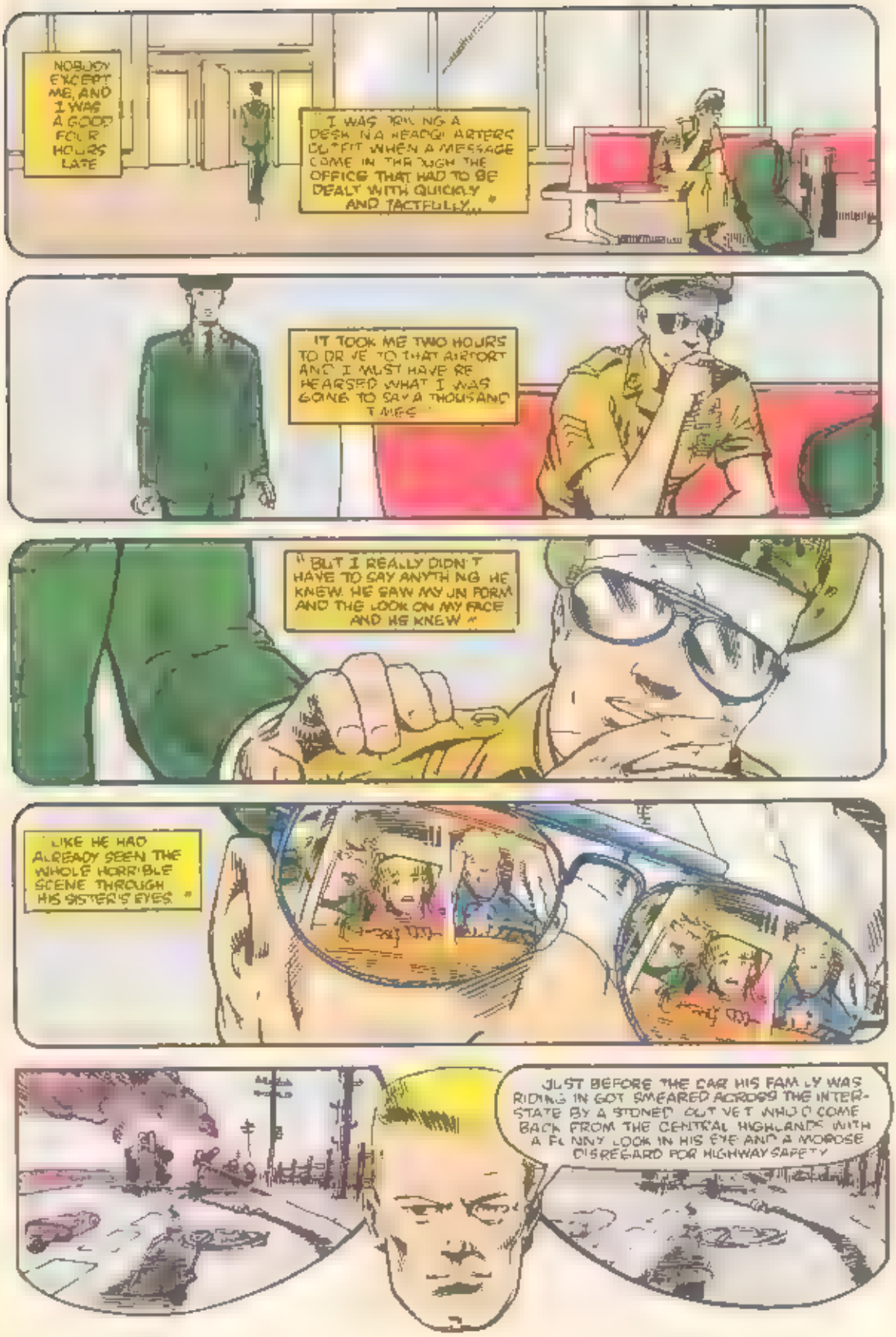
I GUESS IT'S MY TURN TO PICK UP THE THREAD OF THIS STORY NOW
HAWK... YOU KNEW SNAKE EYES BACK THEN?
NO. NOT REALLY. JUST MET HIM THAT ONE AWFUL TIME.

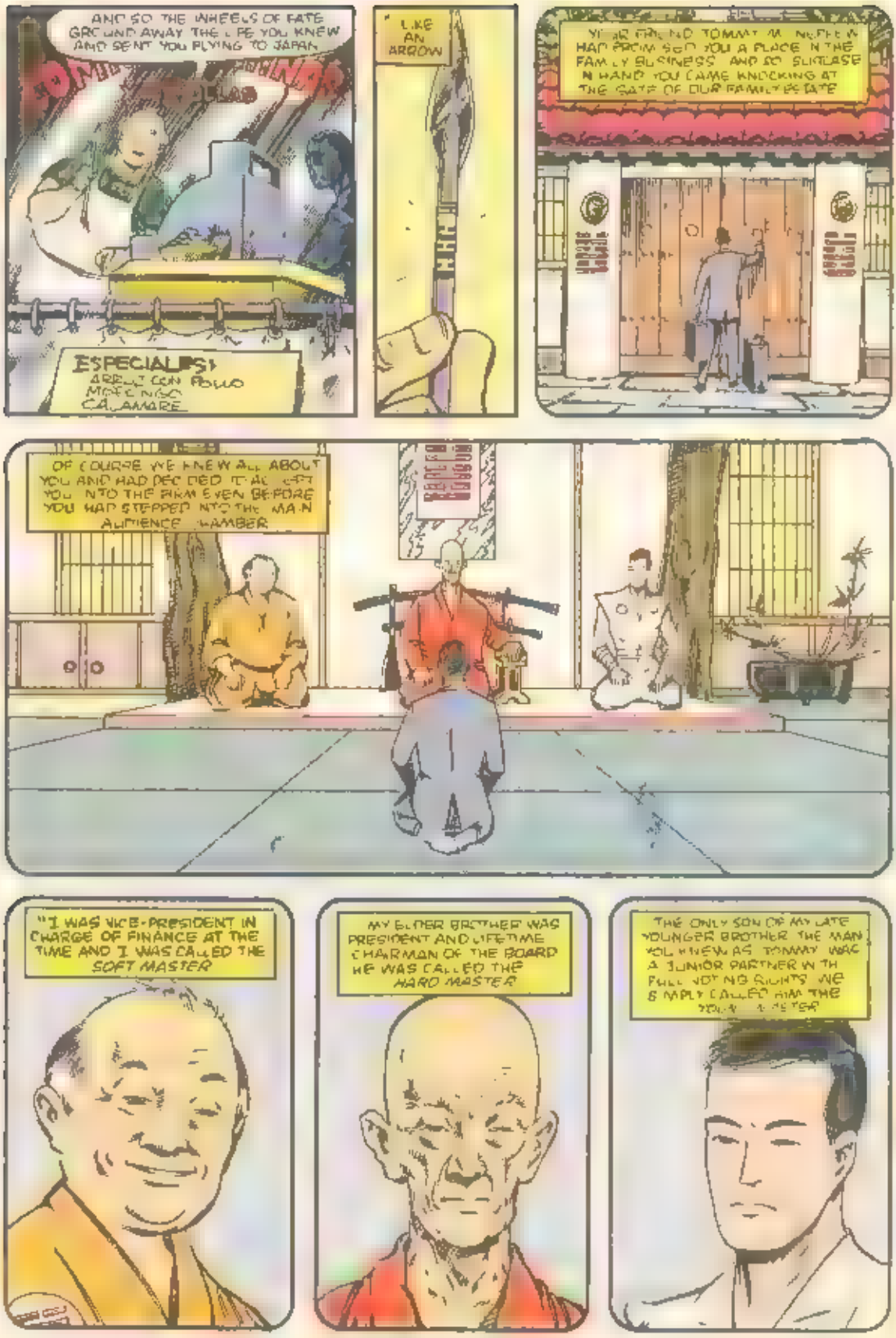

"...HE WAS COMING HOME. A LOT OF BOYS WERE COMING HOME. THERE WERE NO BRASS BAND'S TO MEET THEM. NO PARADES. HECK. NOBODY OFFERED TO BUY THEM A CUP OF COFFEE..."
ARRIVAL

"...THEY DON'T CARE. THEY WERE JUST GLAD TO BE HOME AND ROLLING IN THOSE SWEET LOVING ARMS."

"THEY WERE BACK IN THE WORLD WHERE THE RAIN DON'T STINK AND YOU NEVER HAVE TO EAT ANOTHER LIMA BEAN AGAIN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. BACK IN THE BOSOMS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FAMILIES TO BE LOVED OR TORTURED OR BOTH."

"NOBODY CAME TO MEET SNAKE EYES AT THE AIRPORT."


NOBODY EXCEPT ME, AND I WAS A GOOD FOUR HOURS LATE
I WAS TOILING AT A DESK IN A HEADQUARTERS OUTFIT WHEN A MESSAGE CAME IN THROUGH THE OFFICE THAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH QUICKLY AND TACTFULLY...
IT TOOK ME TWO HOURS TO DRIVE TO THAT AIRPORT AND I MUST HAVE REHEARSED WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY A THOUSAND TIMES
"BUT I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING. HE KNEW. HE SAW MY UNIFORM AND THE LOOK ON MY FACE AND HE KNEW."
"LIKE HE HAD ALREADY SEEN THE WHOLE HORRIBLE SCENE THROUGH HIS SISTER'S EYES."
JUST BEFORE THE CAR HIS FAMILY WAS RIDING IN GOT SMEARED ACROSS THE INTERSTATE BY A STONED OUT VET WHO'D COME BACK FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WITH A FUNNY LOOK IN HIS EYE AND A MOOSE DISREGARD FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

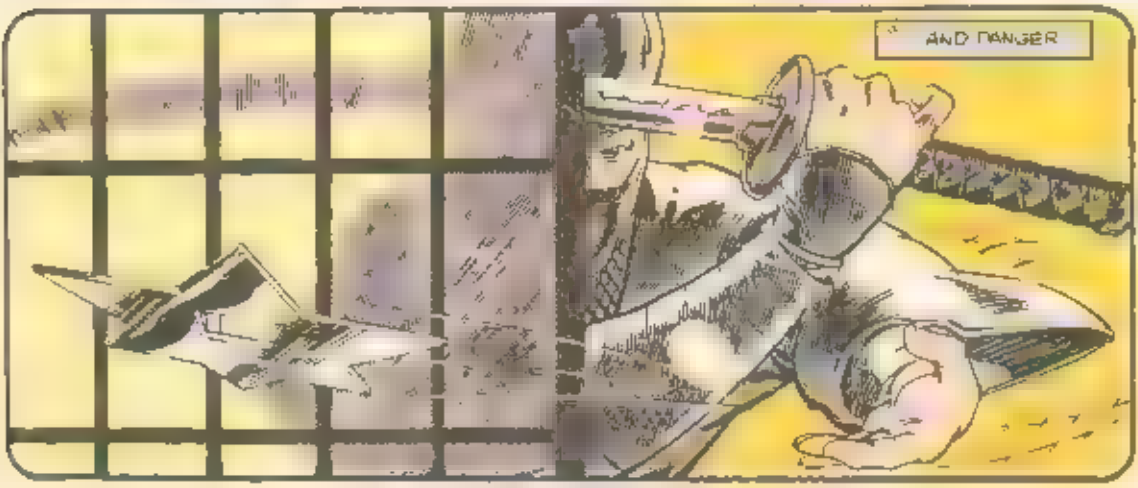

AND SO THE WHEELS OF FATE GROUND AWAY THE LIFE YOU KNEW AND SENT YOU FLYING TO JAPAN
ESPECIALES:
ARROZ CON POLLO
MOFONGO
CALAMARE
LIKE AN ARROW
YOUR FRIEND TOMMY MINEFREW HAD PROMISED YOU A PLACE IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS AND SO SUITCASE IN HAND YOU CAME KNOCKING AT THE GATE OF OUR FAMILY ESTATE
OF COURSE WE KNEW ALL ABOUT YOU AND HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT YOU INTO THE FIRM EVEN BEFORE YOU HAD STEPPED INTO THE MAIN AUDIENCE CHAMBER
"I WAS VICE-PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF FINANCE AT THE TIME AND I WAS CALLED THE SOFT MASTER
MY ELDER BROTHER WAS PRESIDENT AND LIFETIME CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD HE WAS CALLED THE HARD MASTER
THE ONLY SON OF MY LATE YOUNGER BROTHER THE MAN YOU KNEW AS TOMMY WAS A JUNIOR PARTNER WITH FULL VOTING RIGHTS WE SIMPLY CALLED HIM THE

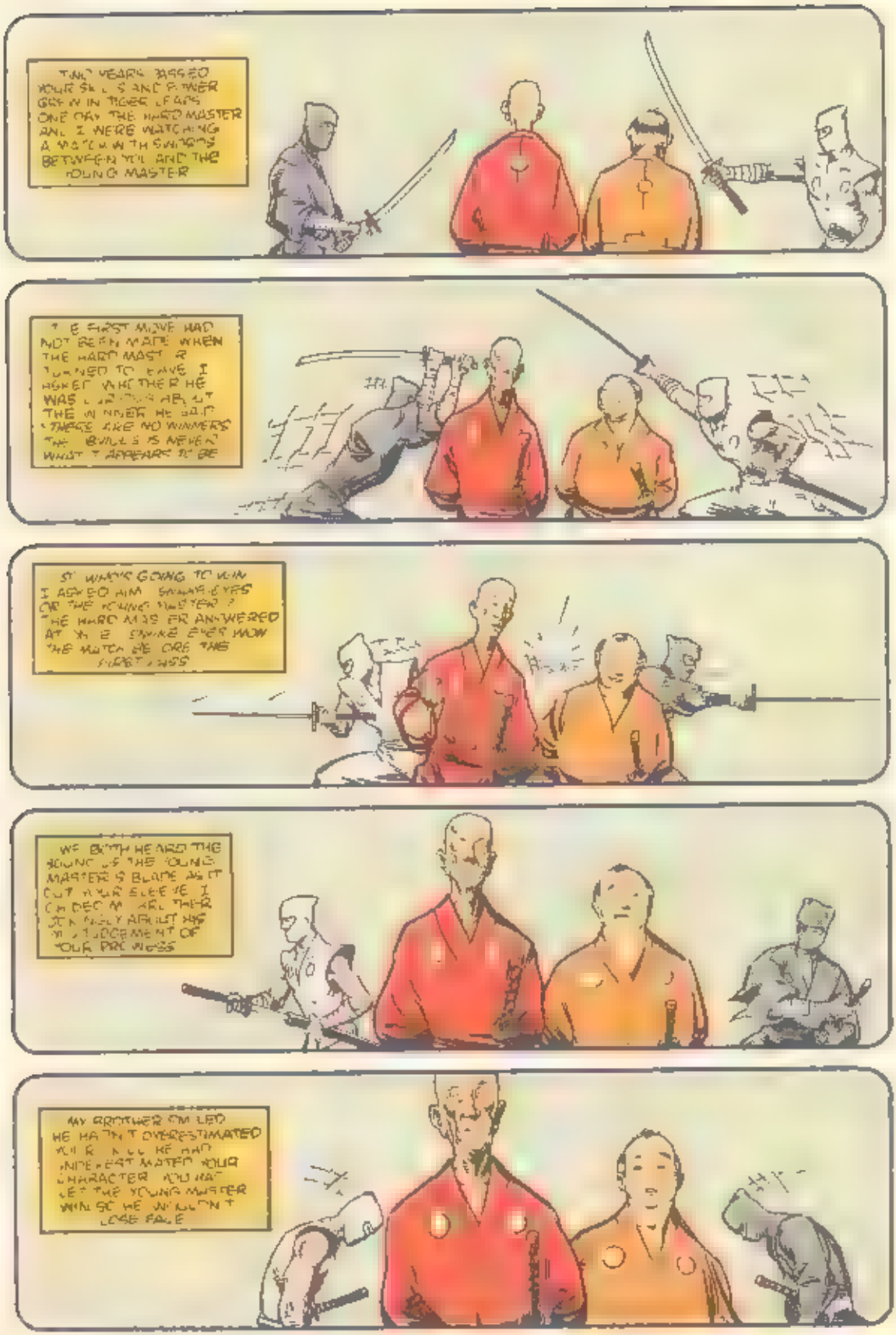
WE WERE OF COURSE ALL NINJAS

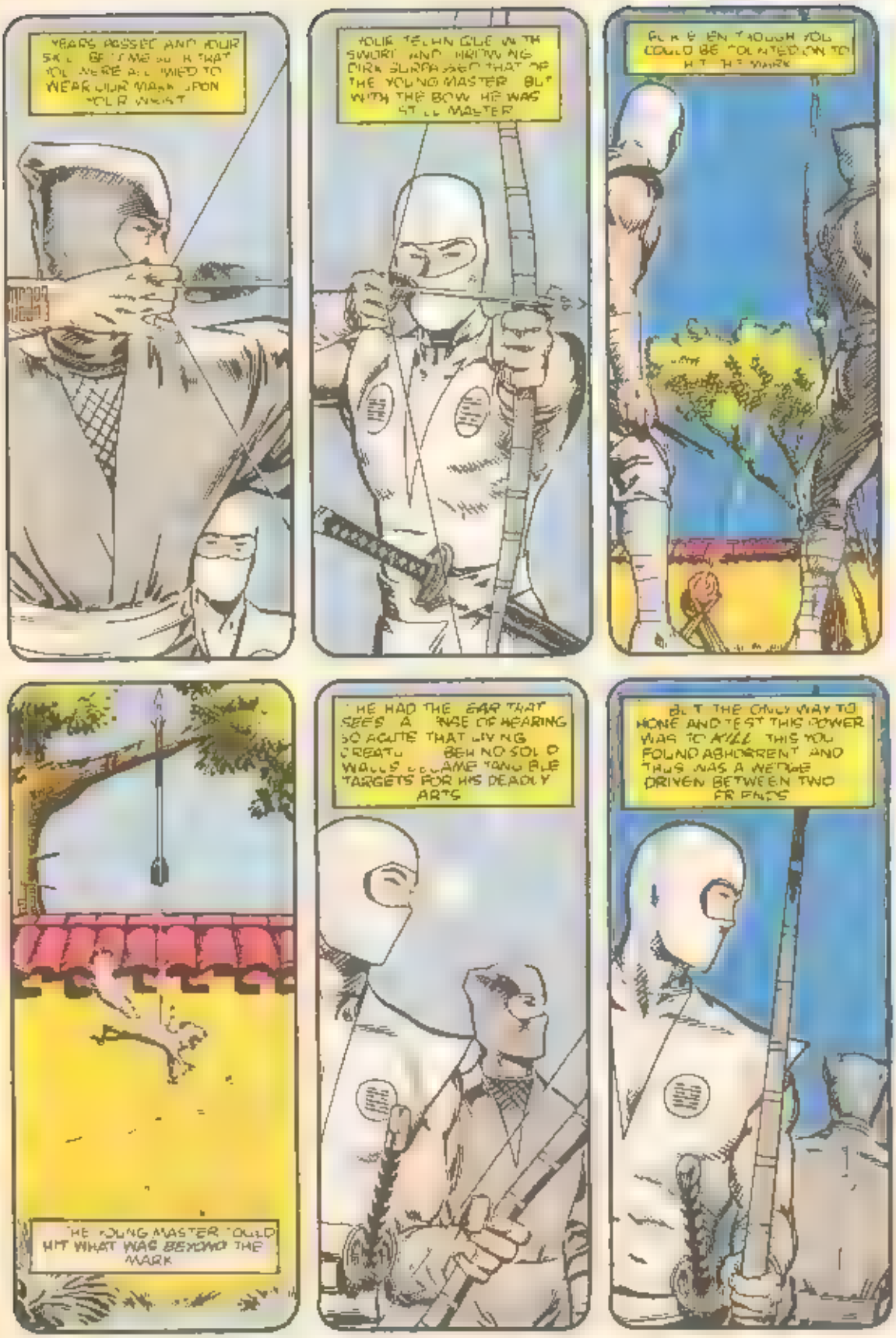
THAT MY VOW SHED MORE THAN THE TRAININGS IF THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR HE WHO DONS THE NINJA'S MASK IS FOREVER APART

" HE LEADS A LIFE OF RIGOROUS TRAINING

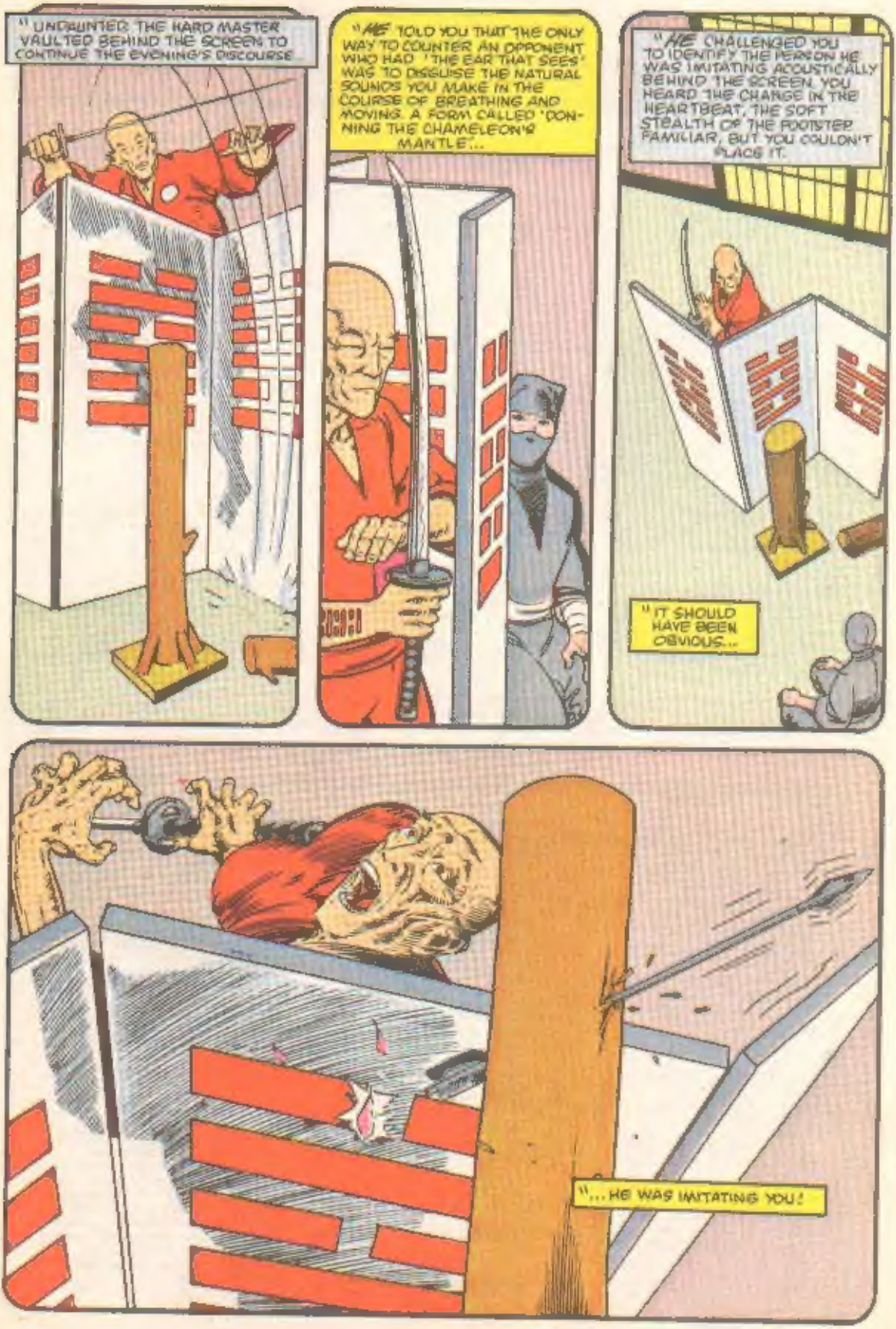
INTENSE CONCENTRATION


AND DANGER


TWO YEARS PASSED YOUR SKILLS AND POWER GREW IN TIGER LEAPS ONE DAY THE HARD MASTER AND I WERE WATCHING A MATCH WITH SWORDS BETWEEN YOU AND THE YOUNG MASTER
THE FIRST MOVE HAD NOT BEEN MADE WHEN THE HARD MASTER TURNED TO LEAVE. I ASKED WHETHER HE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE WINNER. HE SAID "THERE ARE NO WINNERS. THE OBVIOUS IS NEVER WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE
SO WHO'S GOING TO WIN I ASKED HIM. SNAKE-EYES OR THE YOUNG MASTER? THE HARD MASTER ANSWERED AT ONCE. SNAKE EYES WON THE MATCH BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS
WE BOTH HEARD THE SOUND OF THE YOUNG MASTER'S BLADE AS IT CUT YOUR SLEEVE. I CHIDED MYSELF THEREFORE ABOUT HIS MISJUDGEMENT OF YOUR PROWESS
MY BROTHER SMILED HE HAD NOT OVERESTIMATED YOUR SKILL. HE HAD UNDERESTIMATED YOUR CHARACTER. YOU HAD LET THE YOUNG MASTER WIN SO HE WOULDN'T LOSE FACE

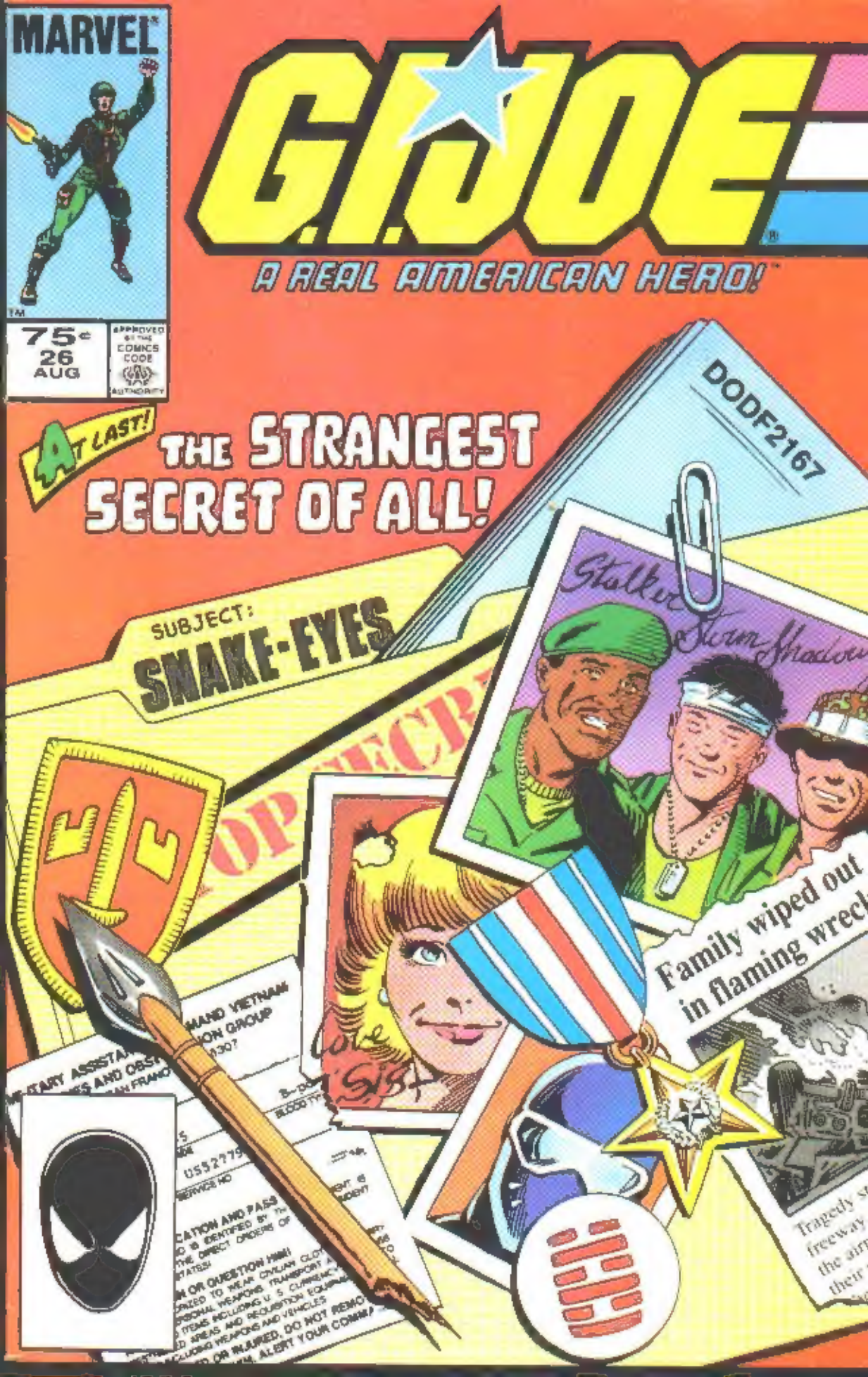

YEARS PASSED AND YOUR SKILL BECAME SUCH THAT YOU WERE ALLOWED TO WEAR OUR MASK UPON YOUR WRIST
YOUR TECHNIQUE WITH SWORD AND THROWING DIRK SURPASSED THAT OF THE YOUNG MASTER BUT WITH THE BOW HE WAS STILL MASTER
FOR EVEN THOUGH YOU COULD BE COUNTED ON TO HIT THE MARK
THE YOUNG MASTER COULD HIT WHAT WAS BEYOND THE MARK
HE HAD THE EAR THAT SEES A SENSE OF HEARING SO ACUTE THAT LIVING CREATURES BEHIND SOLID WALLS BECAME TANGIBLE TARGETS FOR HIS DEADLY ARTS
BUT THE ONLY WAY TO HONE AND TEST THIS POWER WAS TO KILL THIS YOU FOUND ABHORRENT AND THUS WAS A WEDGE DRIVEN BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS

MORE AND MORE YOU ACHIEVED A FAVORED SEAT IN THE EYES OF THE HARD MASTER
"UNTIL THAT FATEFUL EVENING WHEN HE WAS TEACHING YOU THE 'DARKENED ROOM' TECHNIQUES', THE FORM KNOWN AS THE BLIND SWORD'..."
"...THE SWORD, EXTENDED BY THE SCABBARD TAPS THE TARGET THE TOUCH IS TRANSMITTED BY THE CORD"
THE SCABBARD DROPS
THE SWORD
BUT THAT NIGHT BETWEEN THE SOUNDS OF THE CUT AND THE FALL YOU HEARD SOME THING ELSE. A THIRD PERSON IN THE COURTYARD SILENT AS IF LISTENING
MY BROTHER ALSO HEARD BUT HE DISMISSED IT. A PERSON OF NO DANGER TO THE FAMILY IS WHAT HE SAID THE HARD MASTER HAD MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS
SUCH AS HOW YOU WOULD REACT TO BEING MADE THE HEIR TO THE FAMILY BUSINESS IN FAVOR OF STORM SHADOW


"UNBOUNTER THE HARD MASTER VAULTED BEHIND THE SCREEN TO CONTINUE THE EVENING'S DISCOURSE...
"HE TOLD YOU THAT THE ONLY WAY TO COUNTER AN OPPONENT WHO HAD 'THE EAR THAT SEES' WAS TO DISGUISE THE NATURAL SOUNDS YOU MAKE IN THE COURSE OF BREATHING AND MOVING. A FORM CALLED 'DONNING THE CHAMELEON'S MANTLE'...
"HE CHALLENGED YOU TO IDENTIFY THE PERSON HE WAS IMITATING ACOUSTICALLY BEHIND THE SCREEN. YOU HEARD THE CHANGE IN THE HEARTBEAT, THE SOFT STEALTH OF THE FOOTSTEP FAMILIAR, BUT YOU COULDN'T PLACE IT.
"IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS...
"...HE WAS IMITATING YOU!

"UPON HEARING THE COMMOTION, I DASHED OUT OF MY ROOMS IN TIME TO SEE THE YOUNG MASTER FLEEING OUT THE GATE, BOW IN HAND. I ASSUMED HE WAS CHASING THE INTRUDER...
"... IF ONLY THAT HAD BEEN TRUE!
"BUT THE EVIDENCE OF THE YOUNG MASTER'S TREACHERY GLEAMED BEFORE US. HIS ARROW, SHOT WITH THE PRECISION AND FORCE THAT ONLY HE COULD MUSTER.
"YET WHY THEN DID THE HARD MASTER DENY THE YOUNG MASTER'S GUILT WITH HIS DYING BREATH? 'MY NEPHEW IS NOT TO BLAME' HE GASPED 'DO NOT PUNISH HIM FOR HIS ROAD WILL BE HARD ENOUGH. HE MUST LIVE WITH A LIE TO FIND THE TRUTH...'
...THE YOUNG MASTER NEVER RETURNED AND THE FAMILY BUSINESS WAS DISPERSED. LATER, WE LEARNED OF A NINJA USING THE FAMILY NAME AND WORKING FOR COBRA. STORM SHADOW.
DESPITE THE HARD MASTER'S DENIALS I BELIEVE IT WAS STORM SHADOW WHO SHOT THE ARROW THAT TOOK MY BROTHER'S LIFE.
...BUT THAT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION. THE EAR THAT SEES HAD BEEN DUPED BY THE MANTLE OF THE CHAMELEON. YOU, SNAKE-EYES WERE THE REAL TARGET!

NEXT: WHY SNAKE EYES DOESN'T SPEAK!!


MARVEL
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AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
G.I. JOE
A REAL AMERICAN HERO!
AT LAST!
THE STRANGEST SECRET OF ALL!
DODF2167
SUBJECT:
SNAKE-EYES
Stalker
Storm Shadow
Family wiped out in flaming wreck